

# Grapple

**CARTEL #3**



**MARC BERNARDIN • ADAM FREEMAN • ROSI KAMPE • BRAD SIMPSON**





# Genius

## CARTEL



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### GENIUS CARTEL ISSUE THREE. OCTOBER 2017.

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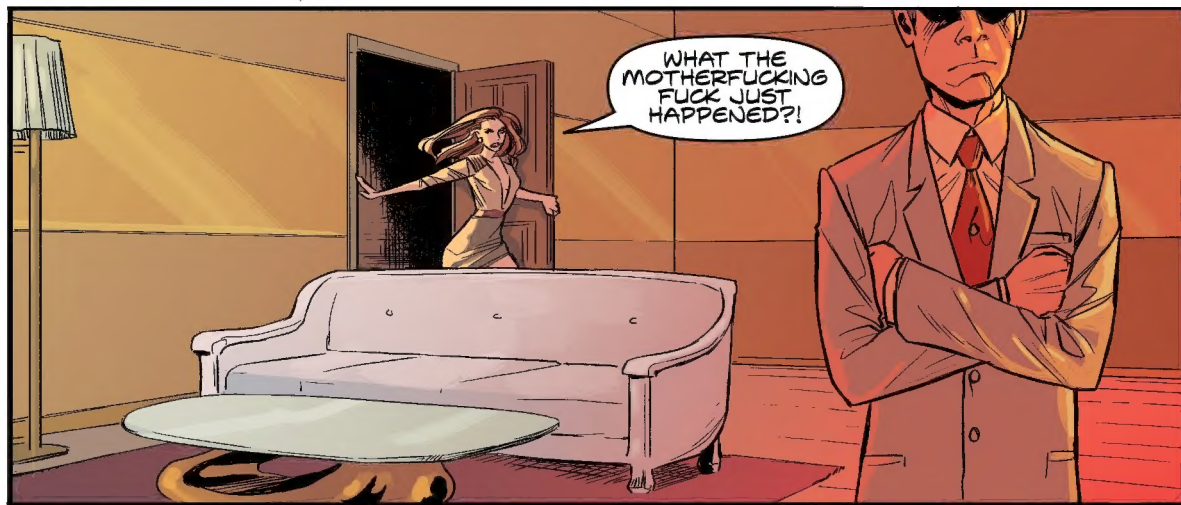
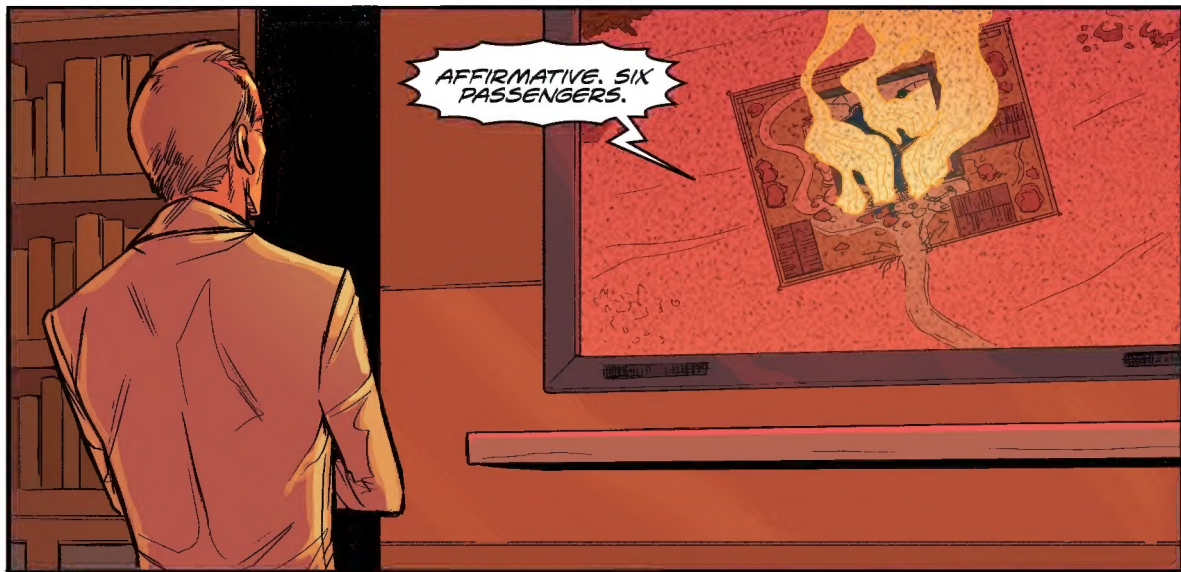


STANTON  
TO CALHOUN!  
STANTON TO  
CALHOUN!  
SIT REP!

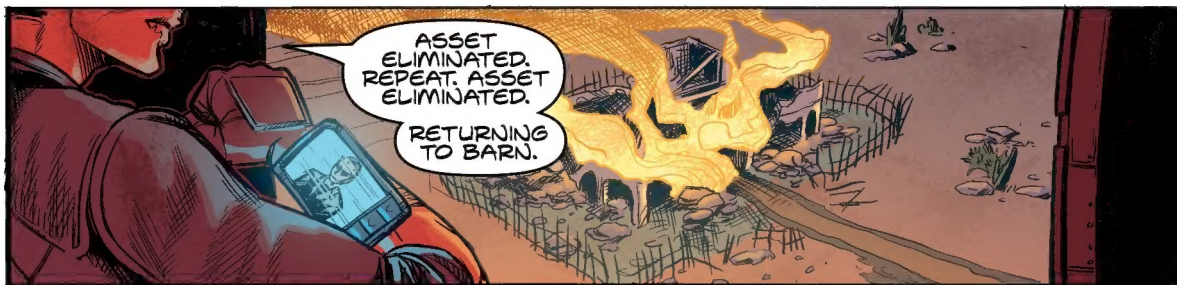
SIT REP,  
GODDAMNIT!







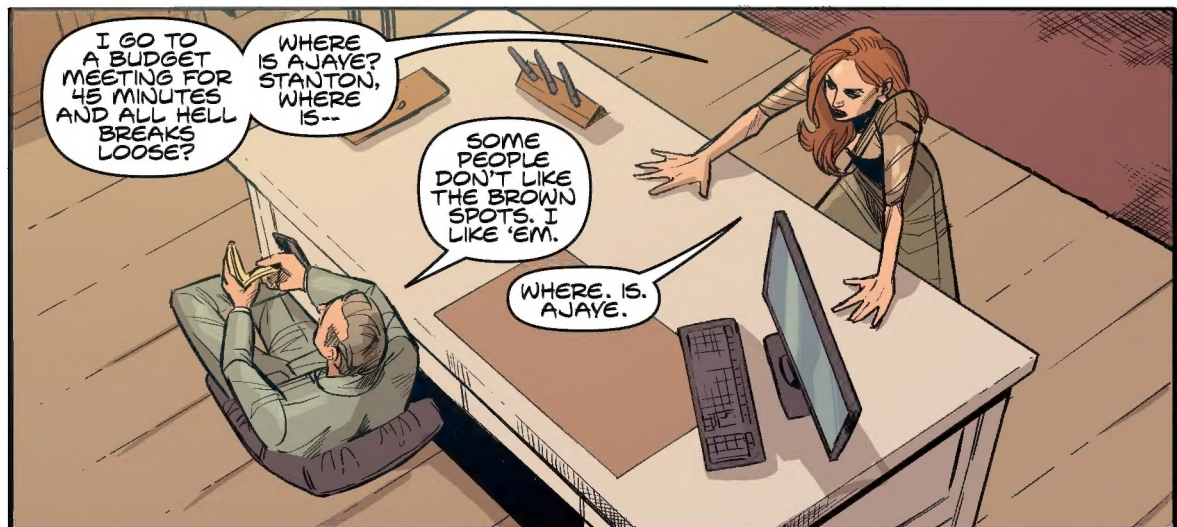




ASSET  
ELIMINATED.  
REPEAT. ASSET  
ELIMINATED.  
RETURNING  
TO BARN.



UN-FUCKING-  
BELIEVABLE.



I GO TO  
A BUDGET  
MEETING FOR  
45 MINUTES  
AND ALL HELL  
BREAKS  
LOOSE?

WHERE  
IS AJAYE?  
STANTON,  
WHERE  
IS--

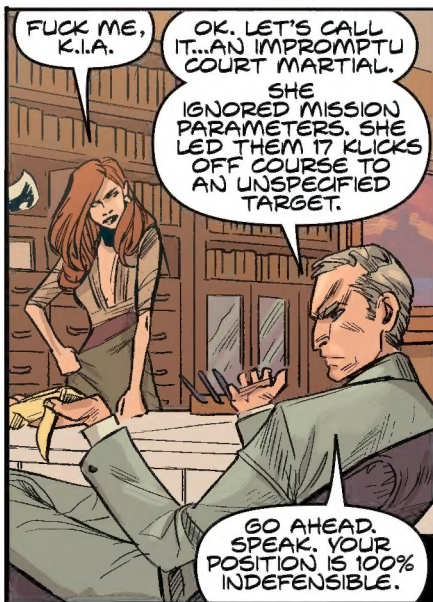
SOME  
PEOPLE  
DON'T LIKE  
THE BROWN  
SPOTS. I  
LIKE 'EM.

WHERE. IS.  
AJAYE.



K.I.A.  
WELL,  
TECHNICALLY...  
INSUBORDINATION,  
DISOBEYING DIRECT  
ORDERS AND...MUTINY.  
IS MUTINY STILL  
A THING? YEAH,  
MUTINY.

RESULTING  
IN A K.I.A.



FUCK ME,  
K.I.A.

OK. LET'S CALL  
IT...AN IMPROMPTU  
COURT MARTIAL.  
SHE  
IGNORED MISSION  
PARAMETERS. SHE  
LED THEM 17 KICKS  
OFF COURSE TO  
AN UNSPECIFIED  
TARGET.

GO AHEAD.  
SPEAK. YOUR  
POSITION IS 100%  
INDEFENSIBLE.



CALHOUN. THIS BULLSHIT  
TAKES US DOWN, I'LL  
PUT A BULLET IN YOU  
MYSELF.

COPY  
THAT,  
RAFF.

COPY  
THAT.



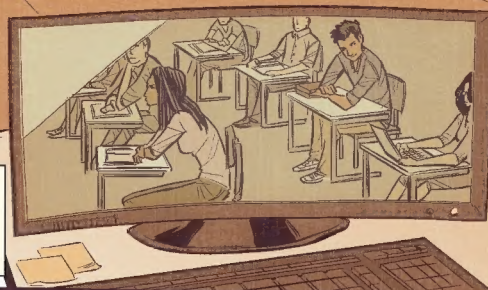


The greatest military mind of our generation belongs to Destiny Ajaye, a 17-year-old gangbanger from South Central Los Angeles.



Days shy of the one year anniversary of the "Battle of Los Angeles," the world still believes her dead, a martyr to the cause.

For the last 11 months she has been a "student" of the Madrasa Institute-- a black ops organization specializing in harnessing the most prodigious minds on the planet.



Now, Destiny once again finds herself at the center of another war.



She has accepted a mission to assassinate the leader of a Mexican Drug cartel. Her personal mission, however, is to follow encrypted coordinates left to her by her only friend at the Institute-- before his suicide.





FSSSS



NOW I  
KNOW.

THE TRUE  
MISSION.

ROGER'S  
MISSION.

MADRASA HAD HIM  
GATHERING INTEL ON  
THE LOS ZETAS  
CARTEL'S DRUG  
OPERATION. BUT HE  
FOUND SOMETHING  
ELSE. AND HE WANTED  
ME TO FIND IT.





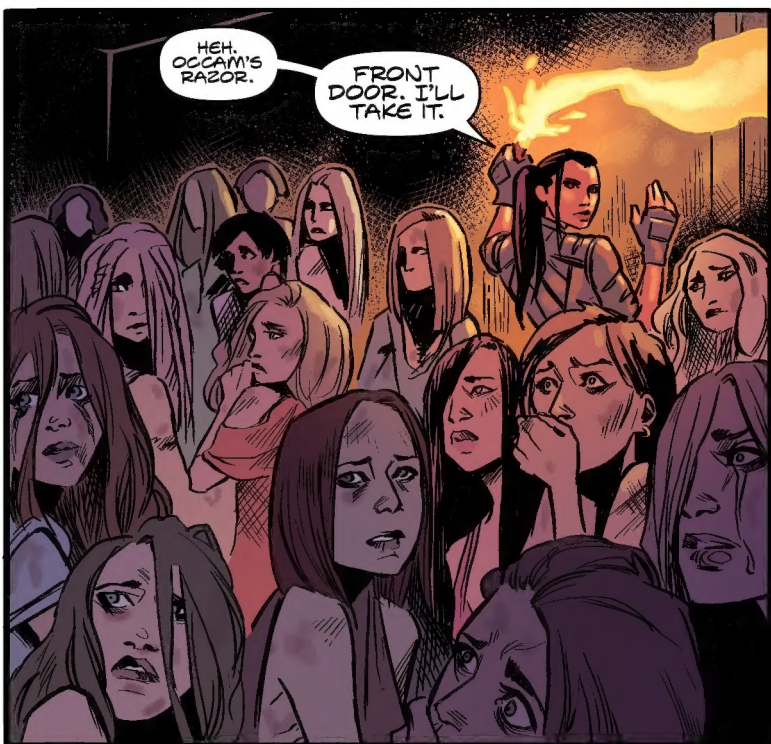
WORK THE PROBLEM.

THERE IS ALWAYS A WAY OUT.



CLICK CLINK

OYE! CHICAS! SÍGUEME! MANTENGA BAJA!



HEH. OCCAM'S RAZOR.

FRONT DOOR. I'LL TAKE IT.



CLOSER. CLOSER. TIGHT FORMATION.

(TO THE TUNNEL. NOW. KEEP LOW. DON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID.)

NO, PLEASE...

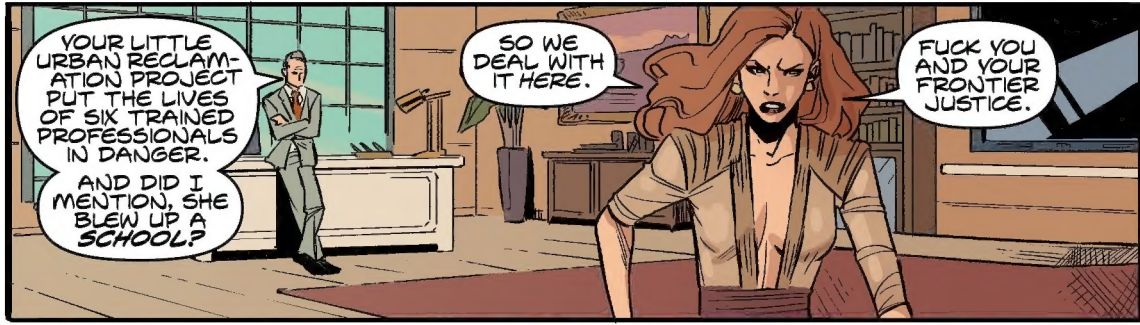
NO LASTIMARNOS, NO LASTIMARNOS.

OH DIEU, NON. NON...

もう一度、してください!

OKAY, ROGER. HERE WE GO.





YOUR LITTLE URBAN RECLAMATION PROJECT PUT THE LIVES OF SIX TRAINED PROFESSIONALS IN DANGER. AND DID I MENTION, SHE BLEW UP A SCHOOL?

SO WE DEAL WITH IT HERE.

FUCK YOU AND YOUR FRONTIER JUSTICE.



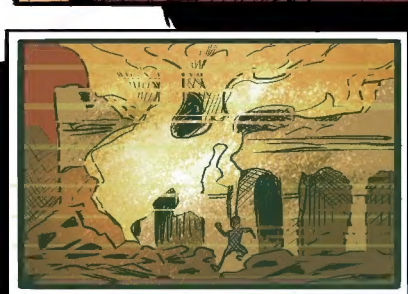
THIS IS JAMESON. I NEED YOU TO FIND SOMEONE FOR ME. NOW.



FASTER, BITCHES! LOW, UNDER THE SMOKE, NOW, NOW, NOW!



(YOU WANT TO MAKE YOUR PAPA MAD? DIE. THEN YOU'LL SEE HOW MAD YOUR PAPA CAN GET!)

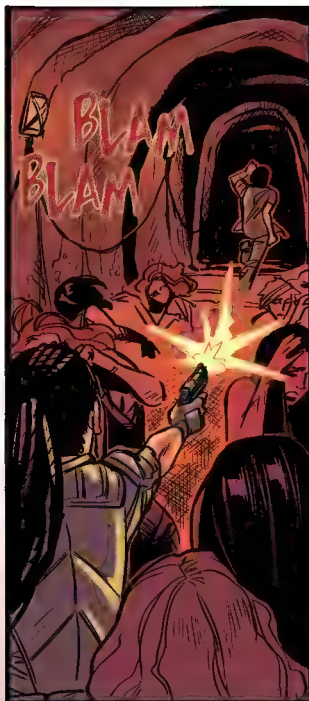


PAPA IS VERY MAD.









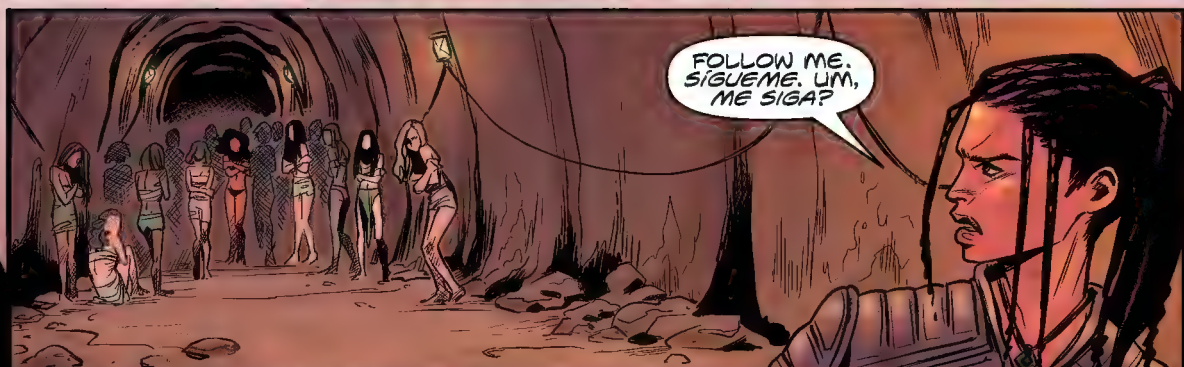
WELL.

SHIT.



WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME. AND NOW THEY'LL BE WAITING FOR US AT THE NORTH END.

FOLLOW ME.



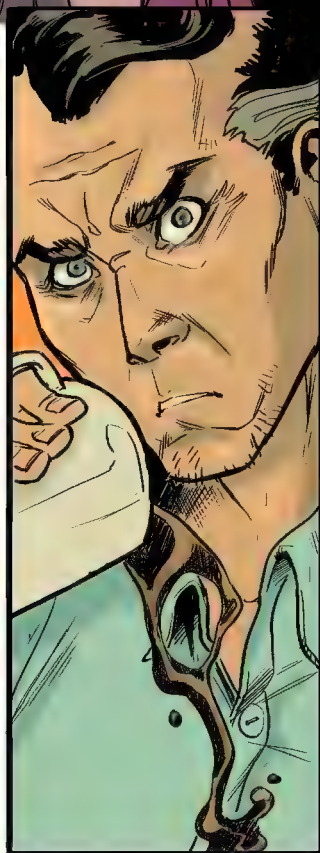
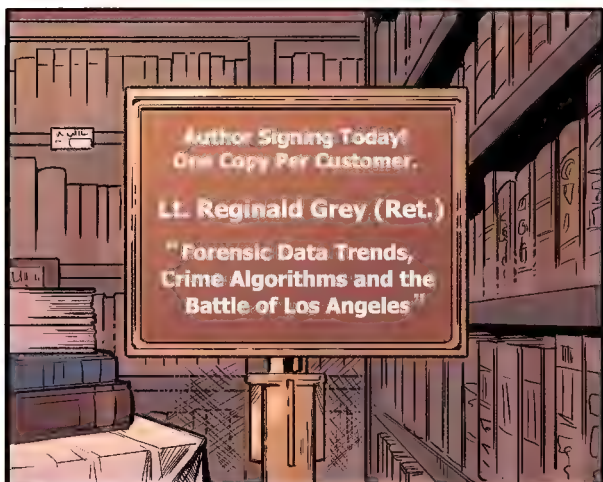
FOLLOW ME. SÍGUEME. UM, ME SIGA?



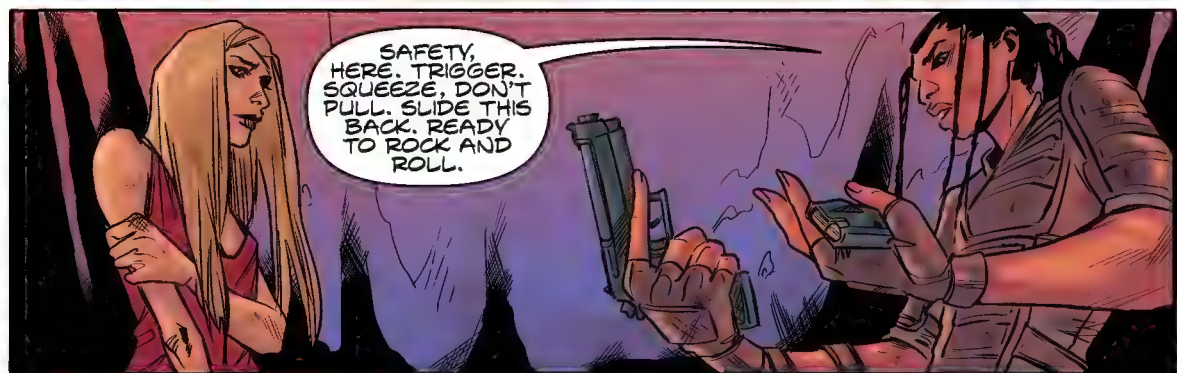
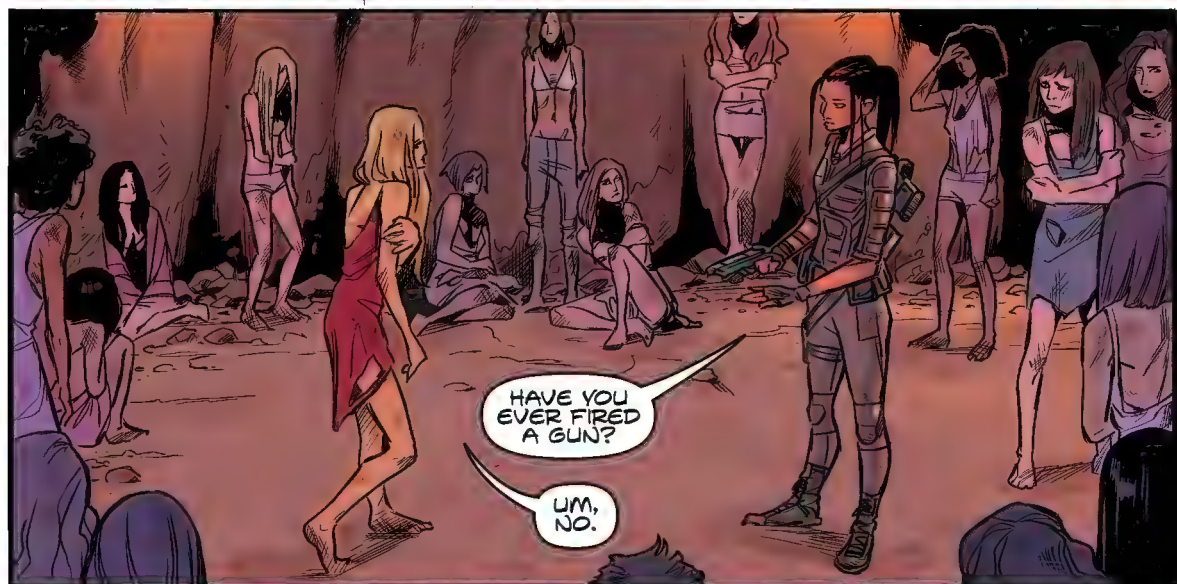
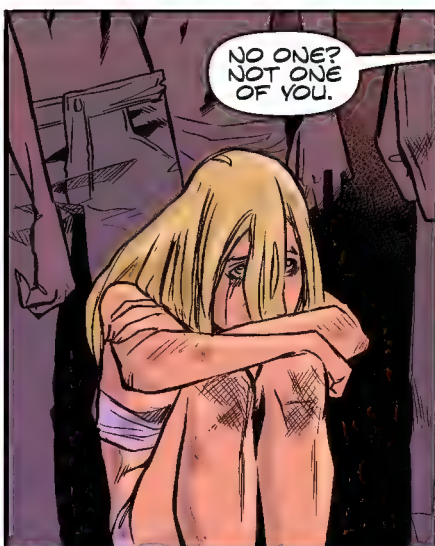
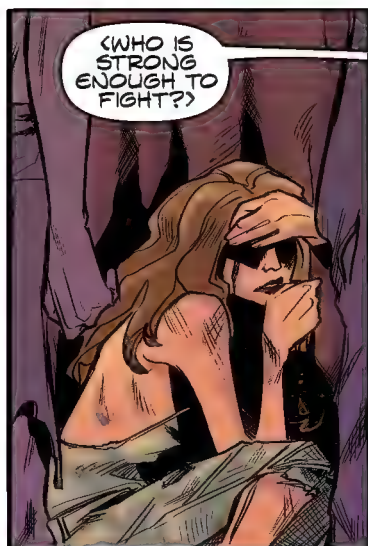
PLEASE, DON'T HURT US. P-P-PLEASE--

I CAN'T DO THIS. TOO MANY. TOO SCARED.









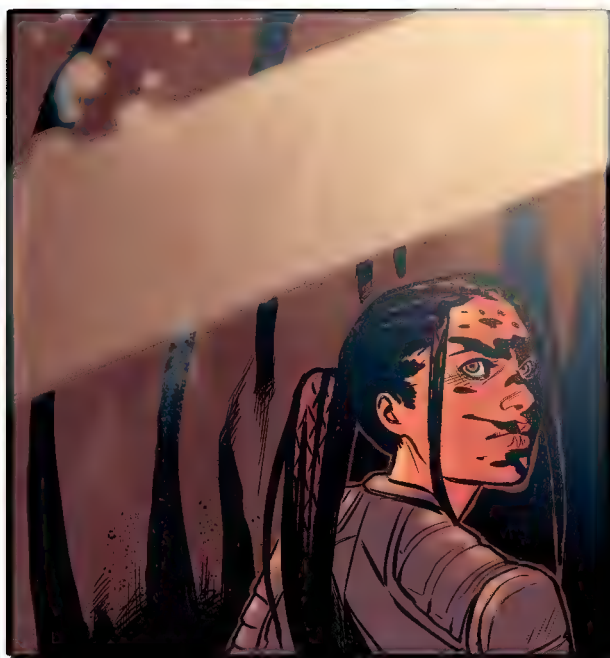
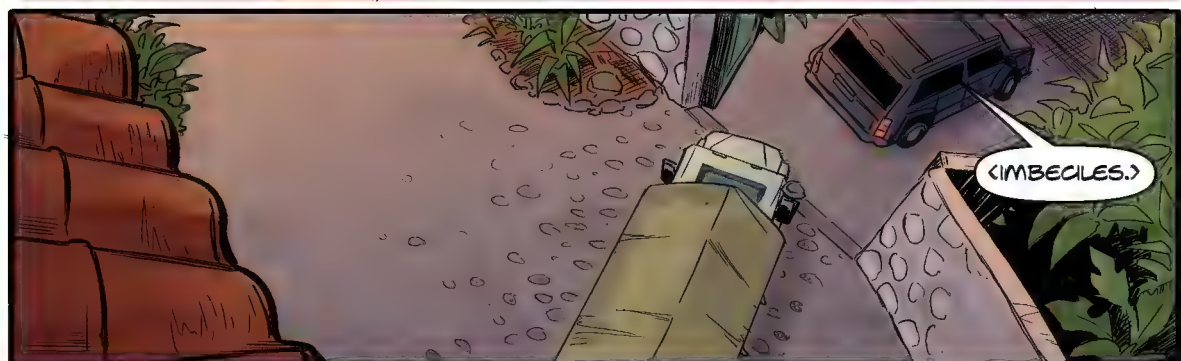
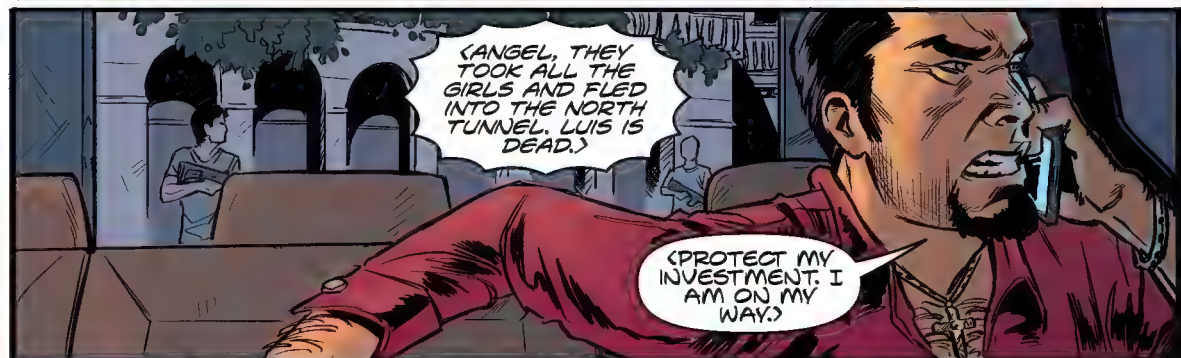




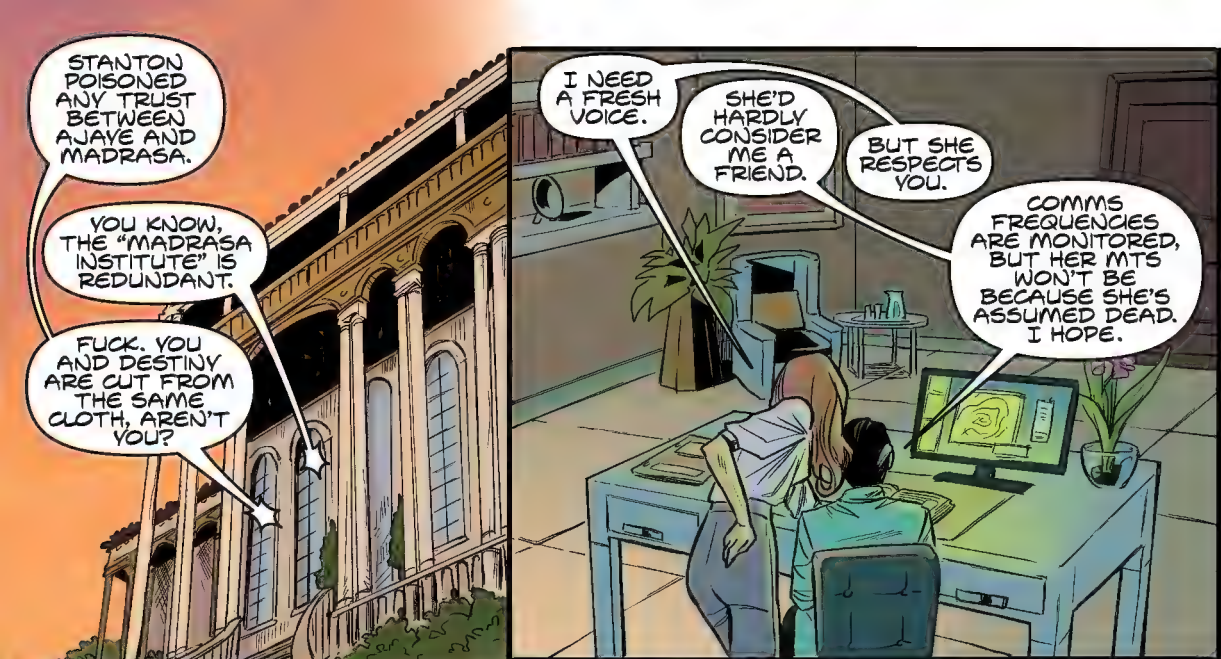
OKAY,  
WHO ELSE--

BLAM

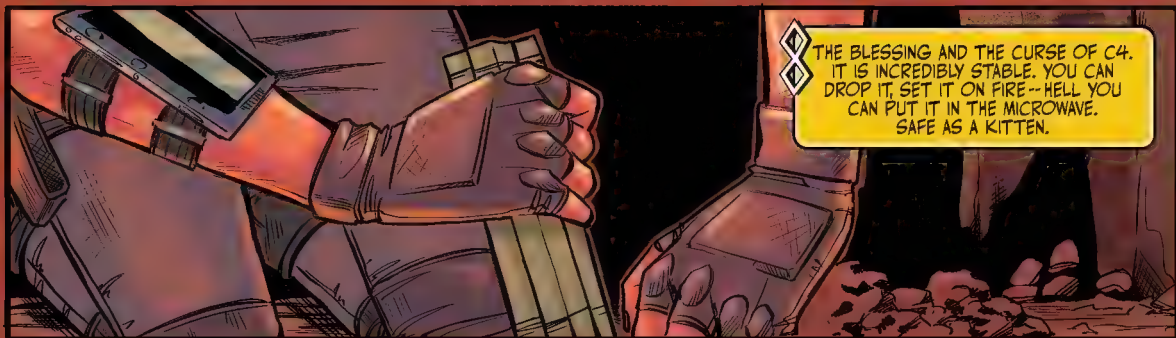












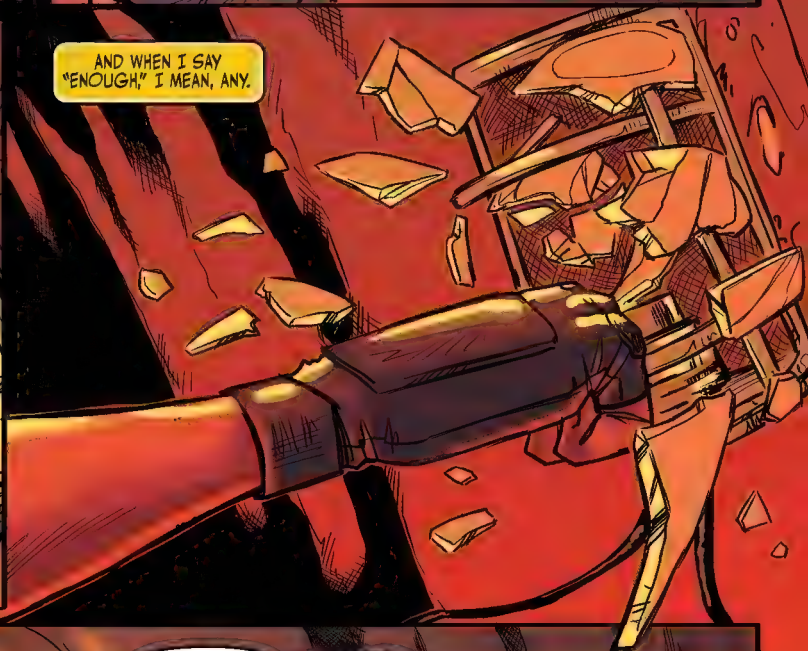
THE BLESSING AND THE CURSE OF C4.  
IT IS INCREDIBLY STABLE. YOU CAN  
DROP IT, SET IT ON FIRE--HELL YOU  
CAN PUT IT IN THE MICROWAVE.  
SAFE AS A KITTEN.



NO, THE ONLY WAY TO  
GET THE BOOM IS THROUGH  
A COMBINATION OF EXTREME  
HEAT AND A SHOCKWAVE. IN  
OTHER WORDS, A DETONATOR.



THAT, I HAVE. WHAT I DON'T HAVE IS  
ENOUGH DETONATING CORD TO  
TRIGGER SAID DETONATOR FROM  
A SAFE DISTANCE.



AND WHEN I SAY  
"ENOUGH," I MEAN, ANY.

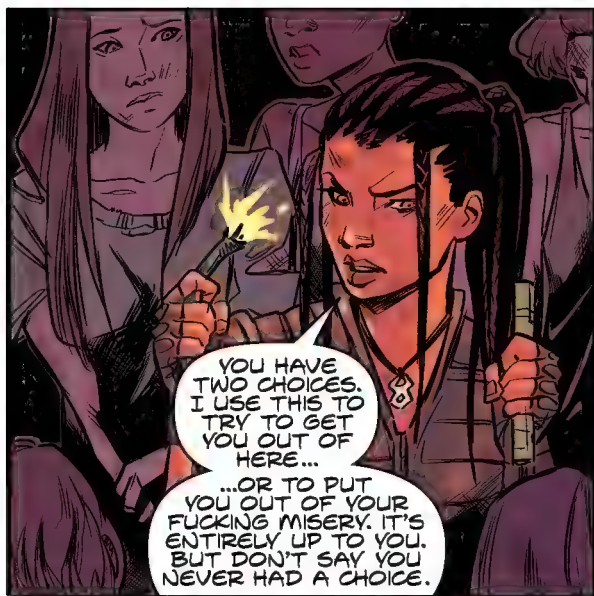


EVERYONE.  
20 YARDS.  
GO.

MUEVE TU  
CULO.

BOUGE  
S'IL-TE-PLAÎT.  
GO!





YOU HAVE TWO CHOICES. I USE THIS TO TRY TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE...

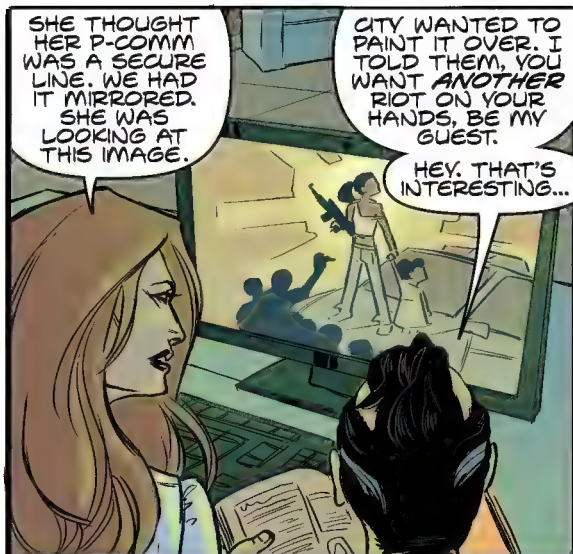
...OR TO PUT YOU OUT OF YOUR FUCKING MISERY. IT'S ENTIRELY UP TO YOU. BUT DON'T SAY YOU NEVER HAD A CHOICE.



BUT LISTEN UP. LISTEN UP GOOD.

NOBODY GIVES A WOMAN POWER.

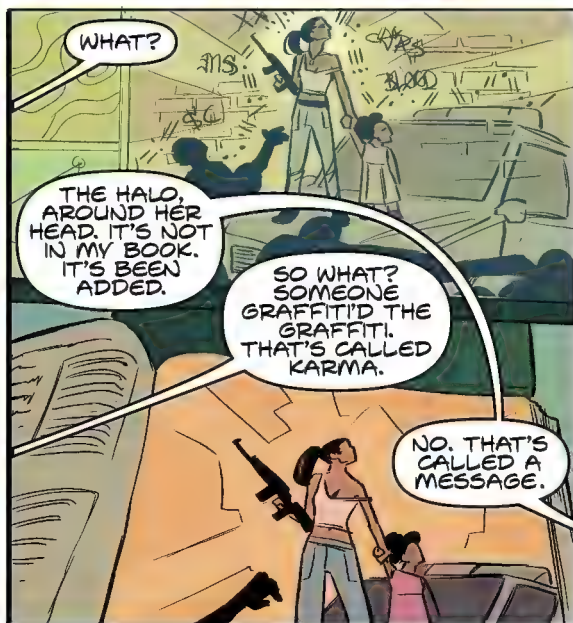
YOU HAVE TO TAKE IT.



SHE THOUGHT HER P-COMM WAS A SECURE LINE. WE HAD IT MIRRORED. SHE WAS LOOKING AT THIS IMAGE.

CITY WANTED TO PAINT IT OVER. I TOLD THEM, YOU WANT **ANOTHER** RIOT ON YOUR HANDS, BE MY GUEST.

HEY. THAT'S INTERESTING...



WHAT?

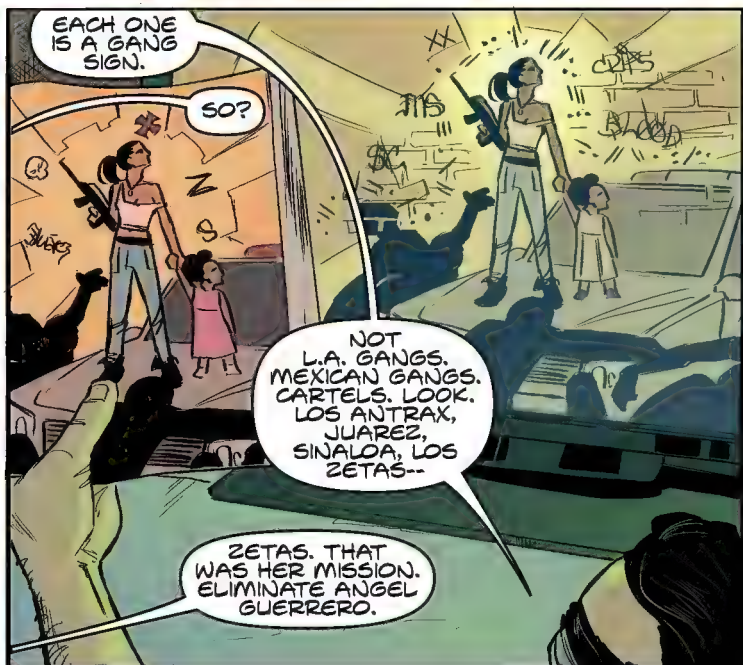
THE HALO, AROUND HER HEAD. IT'S NOT IN MY BOOK. IT'S BEEN ADDED.

SO WHAT? SOMEONE GRAFFITI'D THE GRAFFITI. THAT'S CALLED KARMA.

NO. THAT'S CALLED A MESSAGE.



YOU LED ME HERE, ROGER. LEAD US HOME.



EACH ONE IS A GANG SIGN.

SO?

NOT L.A. GANGS. MEXICAN GANGS. CARTELS. LOOK. LOS ANTRAX, JUAREZ, SINALOA, LOS ZETAS--

ZETAS. THAT WAS HER MISSION. ELIMINATE ANGEL GUERRERO.





AND THOSE MARKINGS. CLEARLY--

CLEARLY WHAT.

CODE. MORSE CODE. THIS FACILITY. C'MON, DON'T YOU TEACH--



SHUT UP. WHAT DOES IT SAY?

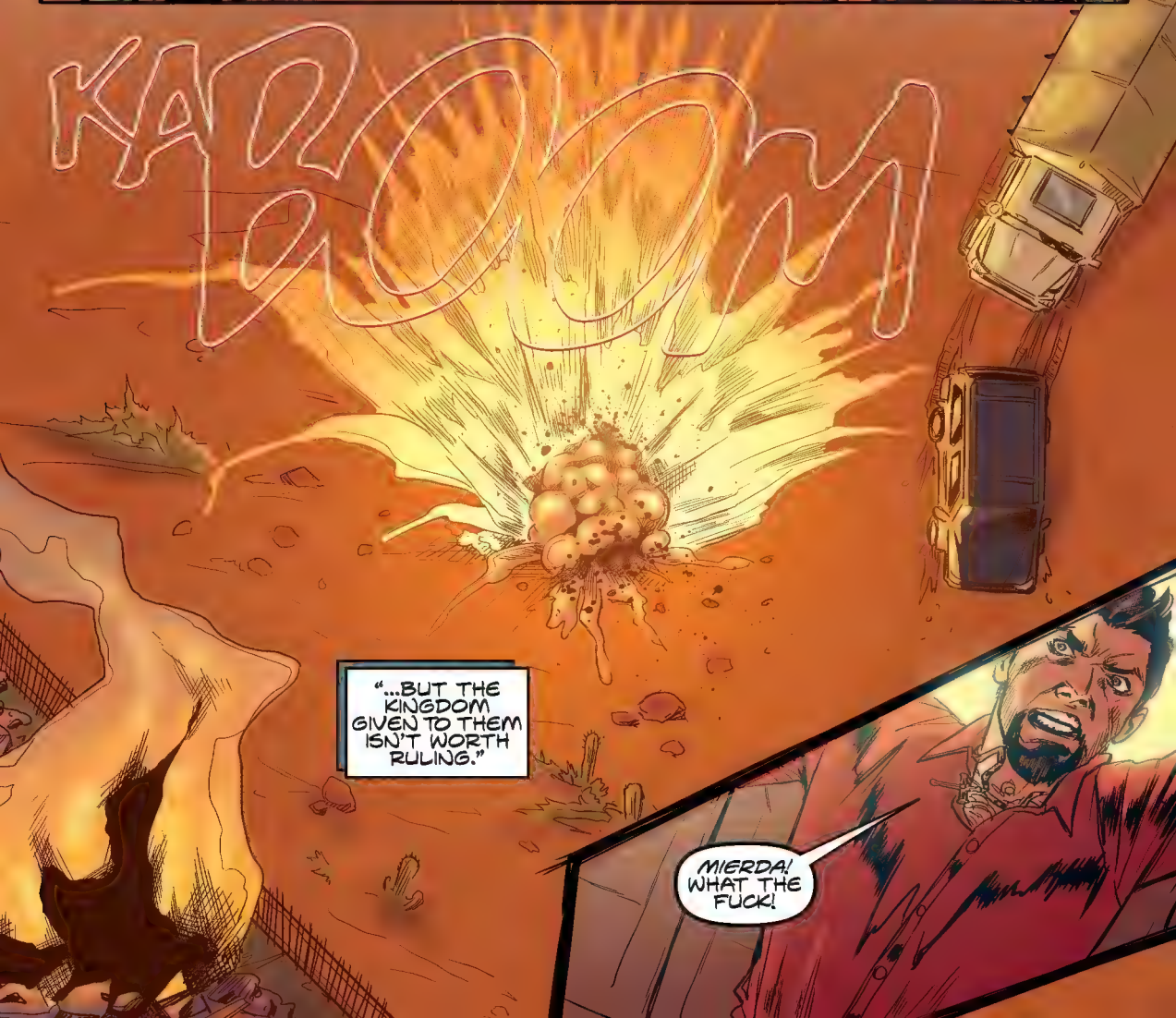
12 SE.  
4 W--

DIRECTIONS. FUCKING DIRECTIONS. USING THE ZETAS COMPOUND AS POINT A.

THERE'S MORE.



"WOMEN HAVE BEEN CALLED QUEENS FOR A LONG TIME..."



"...BUT THE KINGDOM GIVEN TO THEM ISN'T WORTH RULING."

MIERDA! WHAT THE FUCK!





«WHAT WAS THAT? ANOTHER EXPLOSION?»

«GUERRERO SAYS PULL YOUR MEN OFF. FOLLOW THE SMOKE. NOW.»

«AMADOR, YBARRA--STAY. EVERYONE ELSE, LOAD UP. FOLLOW THE SMOKE.»

SI.



ESTÚPIDO! YOU HEAR ME, YOU LITTLE CONO?

TELL MY GIRLS THAT PAPA IS HERE. WILL YOU COME OUT OR SHALL MY MEN COME IN?



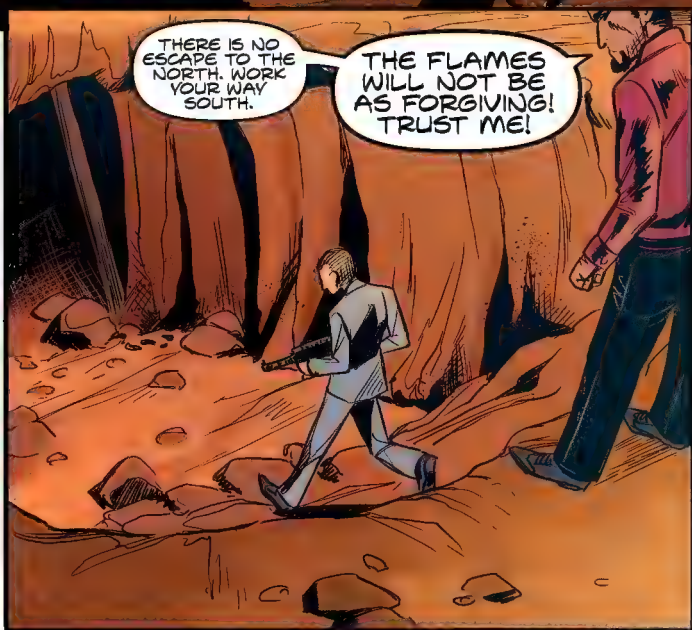
SIR, ARE YOU HURT?

OUR LITTLE RAMBO TRIED TO BURROW OUT OF HIS HOLE. BUT HE SEEMS TO HAVE COLLAPSED HIS ONLY ESCAPE.

IT IS DEATH BY ME OR BACK INTO THE FLAMES! YOU HAVE NOWHERE TO HIDE!



OKAY? ANYONE HURT?



THERE IS NO ESCAPE TO THE NORTH. WORK YOUR WAY SOUTH.

THE FLAMES WILL NOT BE AS FORGIVING! TRUST ME!





[You ok? Satellite detects explosion.]

Fuck you Stanton.

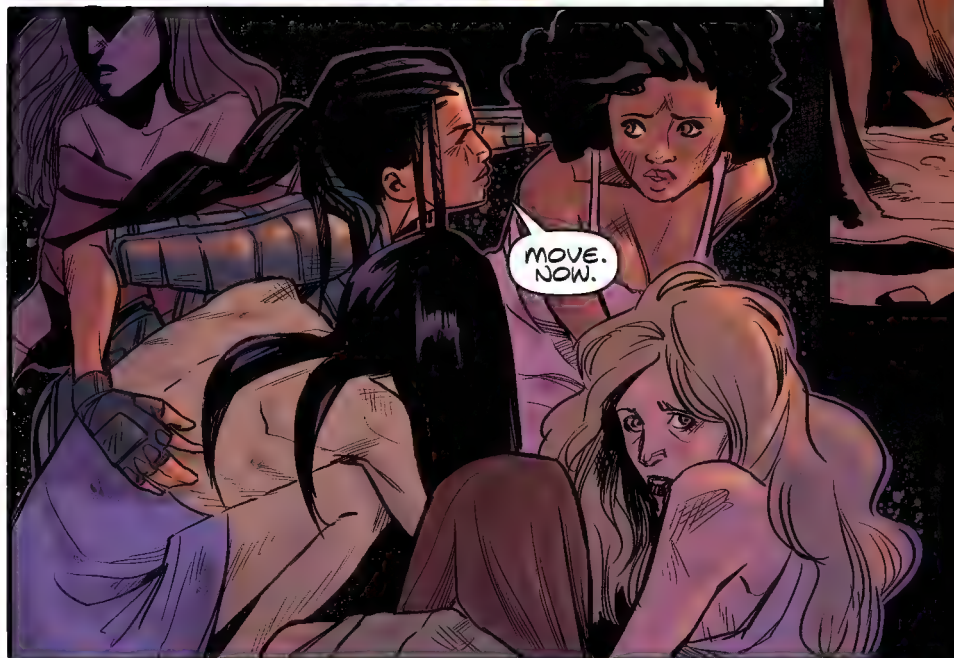
[Not Stanton.]

-Fuck you Sela.

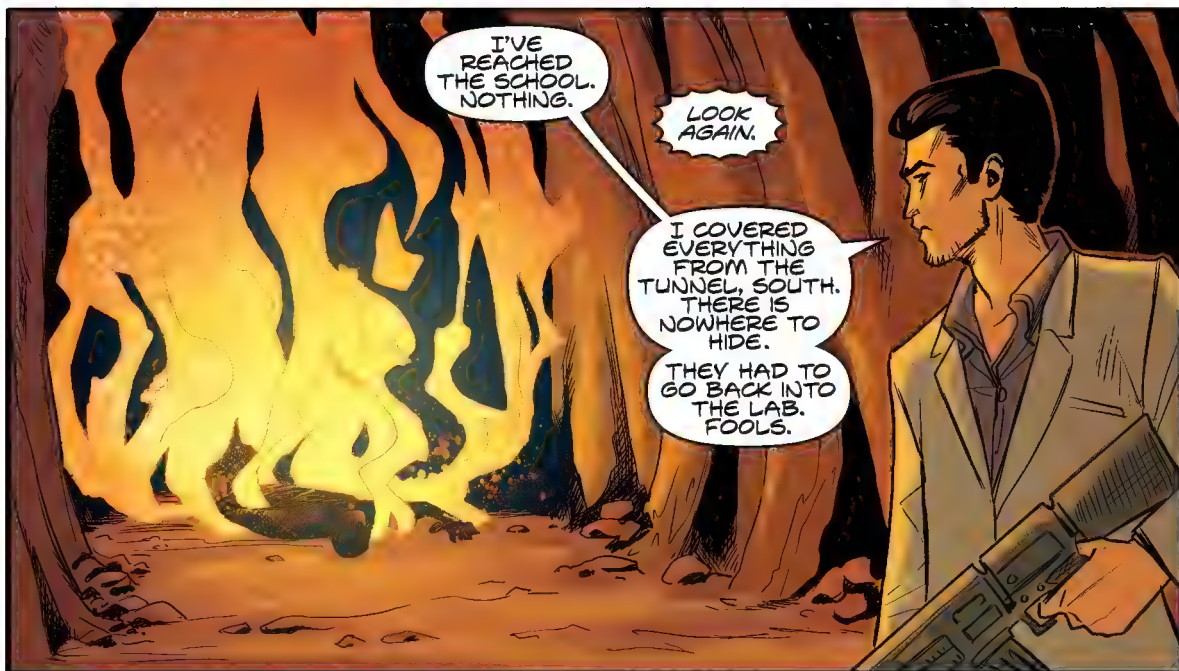
[Try again. A friend.]



¡AMERICANO!  
SHOW YOURSELF. LOS  
ZETAS WILL SHOW  
MERCY!



MOVE.  
NOW.




I'VE  
REACHED  
THE SCHOOL.  
NOTHING.

LOOK  
AGAIN.

I COVERED  
EVERYTHING  
FROM THE  
TUNNEL, SOUTH.  
THERE IS  
NOWHERE TO  
HIDE.

THEY HAD TO  
GO BACK INTO  
THE LAB.  
FOOLS.





-All of my  
friends are  
dead.

[Wrong.]

*CONTINUED...*



**NEXT ISSUE**

**CARTEL #4**





Alex Underwood has  
been to war and back—  
but she's never seen  
power and destruction  
like this before.



Caitlin Kittredge, Roberta Ingranata, and Bryan Valenza introduce an all-new series about one woman  
who will throw down the gauntlet against evil in...

# WITCHBLADE

CAITLIN **KITTREDGE** ROBERTA **INGRANATA** BRYAN **VALENZA**

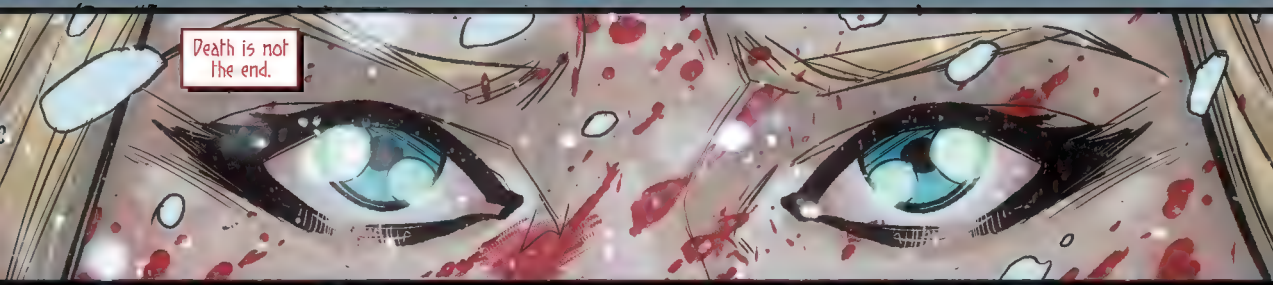
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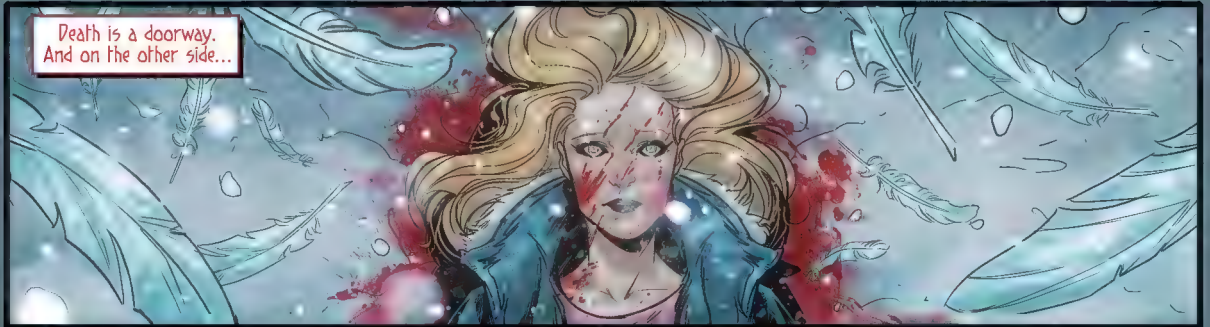
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Death is not  
the end.



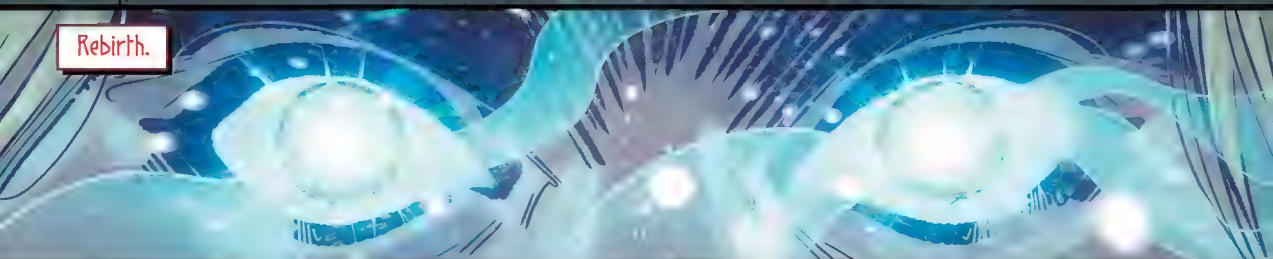
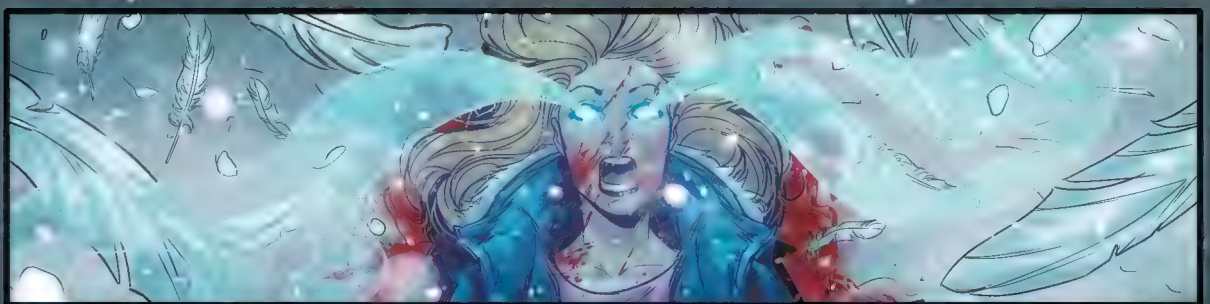
Death is a doorway.  
And on the other side...



Help...

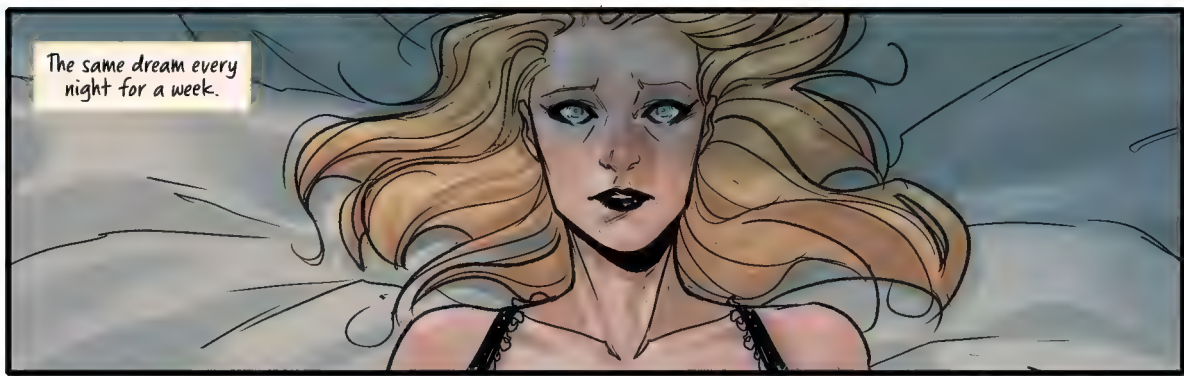


Help...  
me...

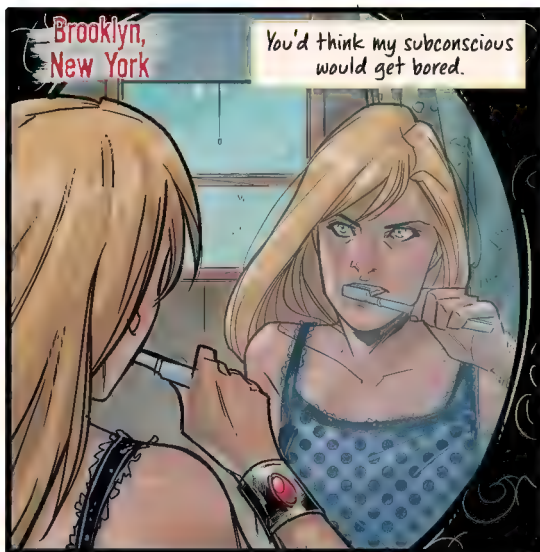


Rebirth.



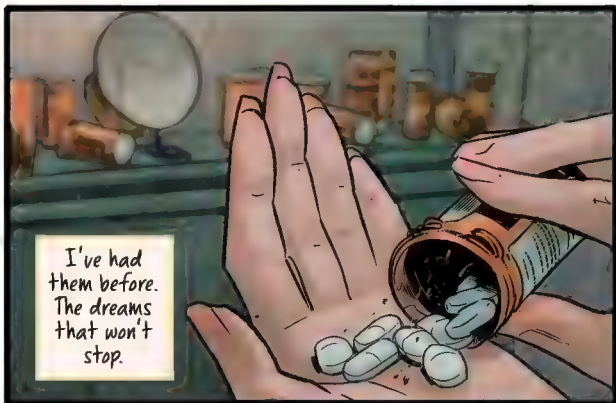


The same dream every  
night for a week.



Brooklyn,  
New York

You'd think my subconscious  
would get bored.



I've had  
them before.  
The dreams  
that won't  
stop.



But not for a  
long time. I  
thought it  
was over.



It's never over,  
though. Not for me.



Witness Aid Services Unit,  
Office of the District Attorney

Lower Manhattan

I recognize you.

From television. You're on the news.

Used to be.

You did the hard part, Myra. Filing the police report. We'll take it from here.

I know you've already spoken with ADA Maddox about tomorrow, but is there anything worrying you?

I know how these things go. Perks of being a cop's wife.

You're doing the right thing. Blake can't get to you any more.

But if you're having second thoughts, I'm on your side. That's my whole job.

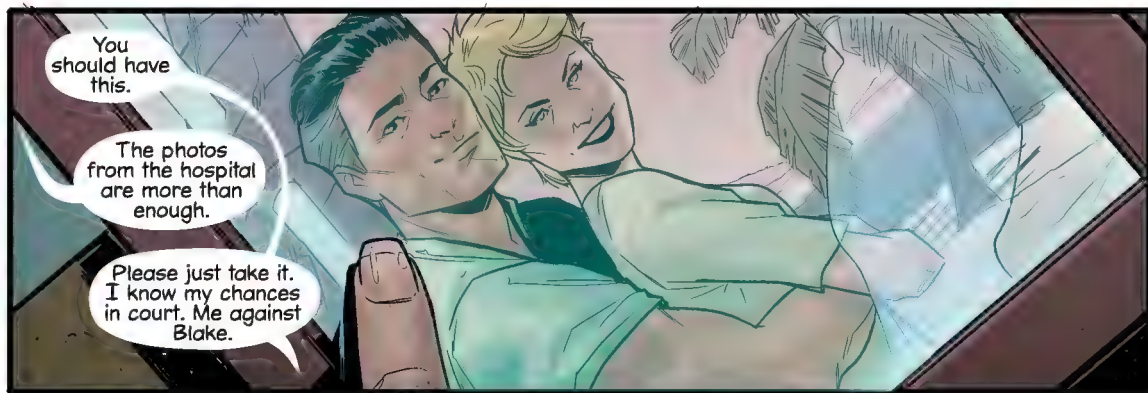
It's not even what he did to me, as much as the lying.

Pretending everything is fine to his friends, his co-workers, my parents.

Forcing me to smile and lie when he'd knocked out two of my molars.

Me telling ten different ER doctors I slipped in the subway...





You should have this.

The photos from the hospital are more than enough.

Please just take it. I know my chances in court. Me against Blake.



If something happens to me, I want **SOMEONE** to know just how much of a liar he is.

I want them to look at this and the photos the doctor took and know that he's a monster in both.



Are you okay to get back to your hotel?

Even Blake isn't foolish enough to violate a restraining order in broad daylight.



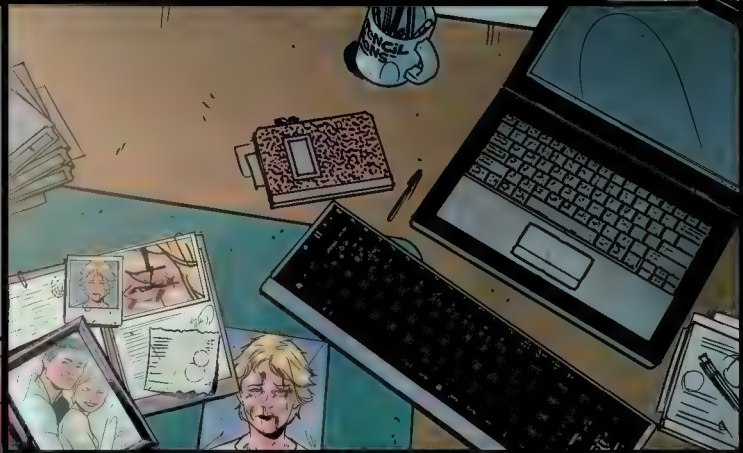
My ass he wouldn't.

I'll make sure she gets to her car.

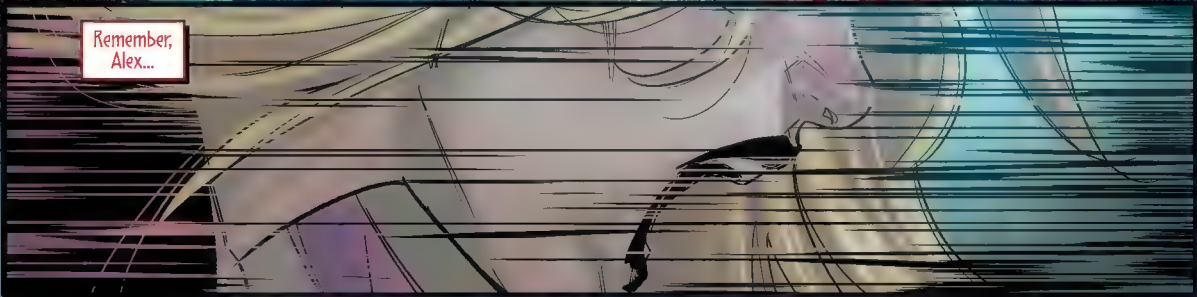
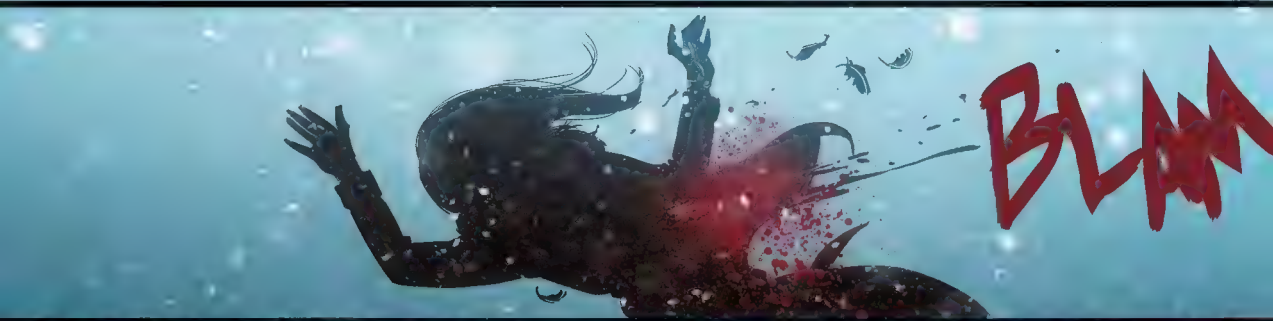
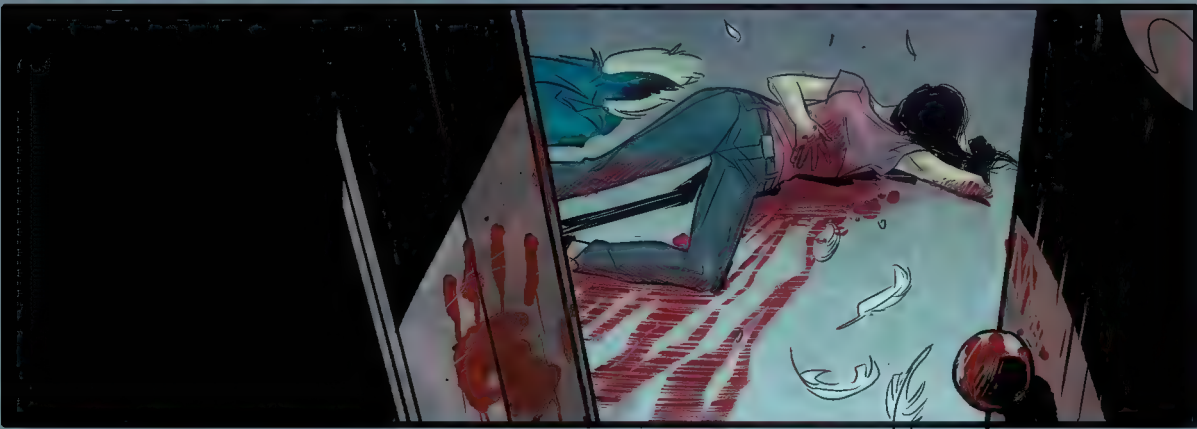
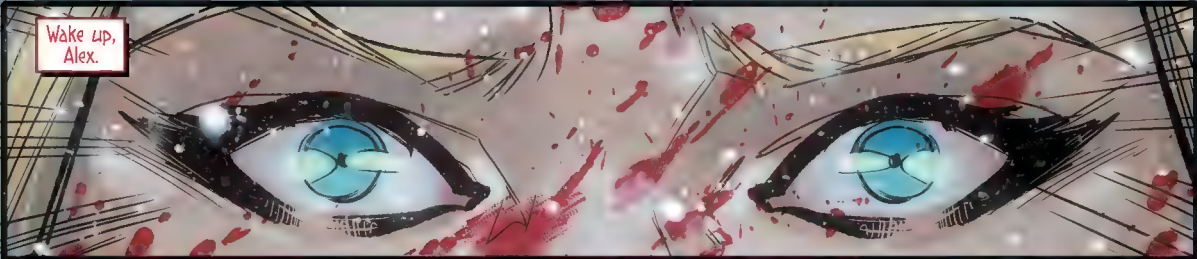
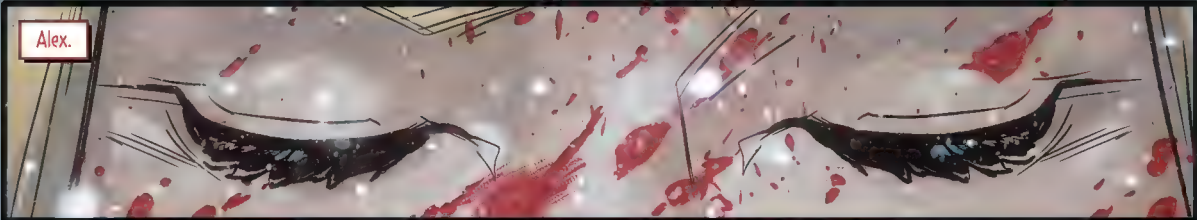


Oh no. You want to help, do better than my useless investigator and find the maid who supposedly saw Blake going Chris Brown.

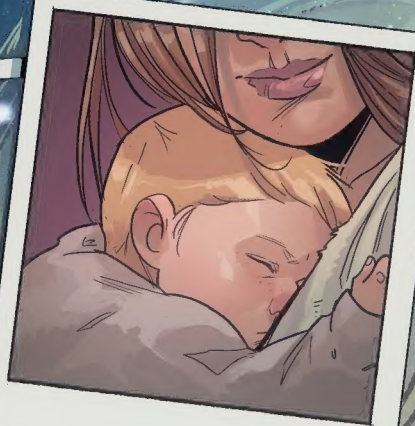
I'd really love for Detective Groves to walk into his trial wearing a big fat ankle monitor.













MATT HAWKINS

RAFF IENCO

# STAIRWAY™



RAFF  
IENCO

## COMING SOON

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# ECLIPSE

ZACK KAPLAN • GIOVANNI TIMPANO



GRITTY SCI-FI ACTION FROM WRITER  
**ZACK KAPLAN**

AVAILABLE  
NOW

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RATED M / MATURE

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NOVEMBER  
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KEEP IT

